



**Chief's Update
November 13, 2014**

Dear Tempe Police Employees,

Over the last several weeks, a majority of personnel from virtually every area of our department have been hard at work trying to solve one of the most heinous crimes committed against a member of our elderly community; a group which along with children, are the most vulnerable segments of our population and demand on a daily basis not only our respect, but our care, compassion and protection.

Accurately reported in the media, the manner in which the crime was committed was nothing less than despicable - amounting to not only an attack on the victim, but an attack against our entire community. Recognizing this, our response amounted to an "all hands on deck," approach and working with our law enforcement partners at Mesa PD, the US Marshals Service, and the DPS Crime Lab, we soon learned that the suspect involved was linked to several crimes in both Tempe and Mesa, and was someone who amounted to the worst of the worst - a serial sex-offender.

Thankfully, as of early Wednesday morning, the suspect's reign of terror was put to an end. Ekwunze J. Owen Jr. was arrested in Tempe and was booked for a myriad of crimes he was believed to have committed thus allowing the healing process for the victim(s) he terrorized to begin. The identification and ultimate capture of the suspect resulted from countless hours of investigation, coordination, surveillance, predictive analysis and lab analysis by sworn and civilian employees alike - both internally and externally - functioning as one team; dedicated to doing what was required, what was right, and most importantly, what was just.

I would like to thank each and every member of our department who was called upon to contribute their time, energy, effort, skill and determination to solving this case and bringing the suspect to justice. Our community is safer because of your efforts! Further, I would be remiss if I didn't take the time to sincerely thank our partners - Mesa Chief of Police Frank Milstead, Assistant Chief of Police Heston Silbert and the employees at Mesa PD, US Marshal David Gonzales and the employees at the US Marshals Service, and Director Bobby Halliday and the employees at the Arizona Department of Public Safety. The teamwork and coordination demonstrated during this investigation is a testament to the bond and commitment Arizona law enforcement personnel have with one another - as well as across agencies - to bring those who threaten our democracy to justice. Lastly, I'd like to take this opportunity to offer a sincere thanks and appreciation to **all** member of our local press/media for their professional and timely coverage of this significant public safety issue. Their individual and collective coverage was superlative and offered great support during this most difficult time

In closing, I recognize your jobs are tough and most contribute more than is humanly expected or required; often going without sleep, food, or familial contact for long periods of time all for what is considered "the greater good." Further, though there will always be self-professed experts and critics who enjoy criticizing the work of police agencies - rest assured, "**our**" work does not go unnoticed and whereas my gratitude is sincere, there is no better type of gratitude than that which comes from those we provide service to.

Thank you for your service to our community!

Tom Ryff
Chief of Police

<http://www.fox10phoenix.com/story/27359802/2014/11/11/tempe-police-arrest-sexual-assault-suspect>